

From: Hpeuler28@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 9:16 AM

To: RPS, DOER (ENE)

Subject: Comments re proposed construction and demolition debris burning in Massachusetts

26 Fuller Road

Montgomery, MA 01085

July 10, 2006

Robert Sydney, General Counsel
Division of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

To the Division of Energy Resources:

A plan to burn construction and demolition debris (C&D) in the commonwealth of Massachusetts is being considered by your agency.

If this is allowed to happen, we feel that the public health will be placed in great jeopardy. It is well established that the burning of C&D releases toxins into the air including mercury, lead, chromium and arsenic. At a time when every effort is being made worldwide to restrict these toxins in our atmosphere, we feel that allowing C&D to be burned in this state is regressive and dangerous.

We own a house and property in Montgomery, Massachusetts. Montgomery is a hill town known for its pristine rural beauty and clean air. The next town over, Russell, MA, is the site of a proposed biomass plant. If C&D becomes legal to burn, nothing will stop the company owning and operating this plant from burning this material (if it is allowed to proceed with this plant). The deleterious effect on the air quality of Russell and neighboring towns could be disastrous. The bottom line for companies who burn these toxic materials is money. And these companies stand to make millions of dollars at the expense of the health and welfare of the people.

The Westfield River flows through the site of this proposed plant. Who knows what toxins or residues could be dumped into this river as a result of C&D burning. As it is, this proposed plant has many negative aspects to it and most people in the area oppose its construction. Allowing even further concessions such as permitting the burning of C&D, will only make a bad situation worse if the plant is eventually built.

The argument is made that we can not depend forever on fossil fuels for our energy needs. We must encourage plans to use alternative sources of energy. No clear thinking citizen would oppose these concepts. However, when the alternative energy source, such as burning of C&D, poses a serious health risk to the general population, then we must oppose it. There are many other sources of clean renewable energy such as solar and wind power that should be pursued.

We urge the Division of Energy Resources to oppose the burning of construction and demolition debris in Massachusetts. Our sister state of New Hampshire banned the burning of C&D because of concerns on the impact of the health of the citizens of that state. We should follow the lead of New Hampshire and not let Massachusetts become a dumping ground for the burning of this toxic material.

Sincerely,

Aline Euler

Henry Euler

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy

Senator John Kerry

Congressman John Olver

Governor Mitt Romney

State Senator Michael Knapic

State Representative Peter Kocot

Montgomery Board of Selectman

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group

Massachusetts Audubon Society

Massachusetts Sierra Club

Connecticut River Watershed Council

Westfield River Watershed Association

Winding River Land Conservancy

Concerned Citizens of Russell